

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 11851 291757Z

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1578

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T ROME 11851

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VT, XF

SUBJECT: VATICAN CONCERN FOR MIDDLE EAST POW'S

REF: ROME 11247

VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR MIDDLE EAST TOLD US OCT. 29, THAT, BY AND LARGE, VATICAN PLEASED WITH GENERAL PROGRESS IN SETTING UP MIDDLE EAST CEASEFIRE. HOWEVER, ARAB HESITANCY IN ADDRESSING QUESTION OF ISRAELI POW'S IS CAUSING THEM SOME CONCERN. DESK OFFICER AND MSGR. SILVESTRINI, ACTING VATICAN "FONMIN" IN ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI'S ABSENCE, HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF HOLY SEE PUTTING PRESSURE ON ARABS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON QUESTION OF PRISONER EXCHANGE. MATTER HAS NOT YET GONE BEYOND SILVESTRINI, BUT SOURCE EXPECTED SILVESTRINI WOULD BE DISCUSSING IT WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CARDINAL VILLOT LATER TODAY. IF, IN MEANTIME, THERE IS NO PROGRESS ON PRISONER EXCHANGE, AND SHOULD CARDINAL VILLOT AGREE, PLAN CALLS FOR MAKING DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF PRISONERS TO ARAB AMBASSADORS TO HOLY SEE, AS WELL AS IN ARAB CAPITALS THROUGH LOCAL NUNCIATURES. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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